

Dioclea Boykinii, Gray, was found in full bloom two years ago, in Drew county, Arkansas, the last of July. The legumes were quite immature, and we concluded this was its usual time of flowering. From observations the last season we conclude that it sometimes begins flowering as early as the middle of June. We would say from June to August is the period of this species. We were unable to visit the Drew county locality this season, but the plant was found in abundance as far north in Arkansas as the line of the Memphis & Little Rock R. R., on the border of Grand Prairie near Devall's Bluff. The flowers had nearly all fallen by the middle of July (only a few at the ends of the racemes being left), and many of the pods mature. The plant often climbs twenty feet high, and the leaves sometimes are eight inches in diameter, and broader than long. The racemes are occasionally seven feet long, and bear numerous blossoms, but few of which produce legumes.

Entirely sterile racemes are abundant, and but few pods are developed on the fertile ones. We did not notice a single raceme where all the flowers were fertile. The pods usually contain but few peas, which are separated from each other by a membranous partition, and are about two-thirds as long as field peas. The taste is somewhat like that of a garden pea. Occasionally pods contain as many as six peas, and are three inches long, and five-eighths broad.

Cows are exceedingly fond of the foliage and pods, and the vines are stripped wherever in reach, requiring the botanist to pull his specimens from the tree tops in exposed places. The pods when they drop are devoured greedily by swine. This species was seen about Little Rock, north of the Arkansas river, and probably occurs throughout the east and south part of the State.

F. L. HARVEY, Fayetteville, Ark.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

FOOTE'S LEISURE HOUR for October opens with a poetical extract dedicated to the Botanical Club.

DR. E. P. N. FOURNIER, best known for his work on the Mexican flora, died in Paris lately, at the age of fifty.

DR. W. G. FARLOW has been granted a year's vacation, and will soon go to the Southwest to recuperate his health.

BULLETIN No. 4, of the same Division, is devoted to a continuation of an investigation of the composition of American wheat and corn.

SCIENCE RECORD has suspended publication with the completion of its second volume. It was an excellent journal, and we regret its loss.

THE TITLE of Dr. Sturtevant's paper before the American Association was the "Influence of Insolation upon Vegetation," and not *insulation*, as given in our last issue. It dealt with the relation of certain solar influences to rapidity of growth.

DR. CHRISTIAN LUERSSEN has been called to the professorship of botany at the Forstakademie in Eberswald, to succeed Prof. Dr. Brefeld, who goes to Münster.

PROF. DR. ENGLER, of Kiel, has been appointed professor of botany and director of the botanic garden at Breslau, as successor of Dr. Göppert, recently deceased.

DR. C. E. BESSEY has accepted the position of professor of botany in the University of Nebraska, situated at Lincoln, Neb., and has already entered upon his duties.

"THE BOTANICAL CLUB was a noticeable feature of the American Association, and the perfection and compactness of its organization called forth much favorable comment," says the *American Naturalist*.

DR. CHARLES TULASNE, of Paris, died on August 21, in the 68th year of his age. He illustrated many of the botanical works of L. R. Tulasne, chief among them being the sumptuous work on fungi, *Selecta fungorum carpologia*.

INDIA INK, owing to the readiness with which it stays in suspension and the absence of all deleterious qualities, is specially adapted to use in studying the movements of the lower thallophytes. Attention has recently been called to it by M. Léo Ewera.

MR. C. B. PLOWRIGHT has published a list of the fungi of Norfolk, England, which reaches over 1,500 species, a very large number for one county. 636 of these are *Hymenomyces*, 376 *Pyrenomycetes*, and 85 *Uredineæ*. Specific names are used without capitals.

BULLETIN No. 3, of the Chemical Division of the department of Agriculture on the "Northern Sugar Industry," contains three very poor figures, which, it is alleged, show the cell-structure of the stalk, leaf and seed of the sorghum plant. The figures are better for what they are than for what they claim to be.

PROFESSOR W. TRELEASE has given a statement in *Psyche*, for September, of the present knowledge regarding the black spots on the leaves of solidagos and asters, usually considered by botanists to be some species of *Rhytisma*, and by entomologists to be galls of some cecidomyid larva, generally *Cecidomyia carbonifera* O. S., and has come to the conclusion that they are due to the joint influence of the fungus and insect.

THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPE is not an instrument for research, that is, not for convenient every-day use. The American manufacturers make instruments for the so-called microscopists, those who are willing to pay a fancy price for a fancy article. One of the prominent makers of the country told the writer, not long since, that he was working to establish a reputation, and could not afford to produce the "cheap" instruments desired by some workers. Until the makers assume a different attitude the showing made in the last *Science Record*, which gives a list of thirty-one prominent investigators, twenty-three of whom use foreign microscopes, mostly Zeiss and Hartnack, is not likely to be materially changed.

THE FACILITIES FOR BOTANICAL INSTRUCTION at Harvard have recently been increased by the appropriation of the first floor of Harvard Hall together with rooms for constant temperature and studies in light to the use of the department of vegetable physiology and histology. The former rooms at the Botanic Garden are reserved for the economic and systematic work which comes in the spring term. The cryptogamic department has excellent quarters at the Museum of Comparative Anatomy.

PROF. M. STALKER, state veterinarian of Iowa, and professor in the Iowa Agricultural College, has been studying a new disease among horses of the Missouri valley. In mild cases of the disease the animals lose vigor, and after some weeks die, but in more violent cases they become wild and unmanageable or pass into a stupor and live but a short time. The cause was traced to the eating of *Crotalaria sagittalis*, L., a not distant relative of the famous "loco weed," *Astragalus mollissimus*, Torr. The disease is named crotalism.

THE CONTROVERSY on the relation of cluster-cups or æcidia to rusts, especially those on grasses, which has been carried on with much fervor in England between Mr. W. G. Smith and Dr. M. C. Cooke on the one hand, and Mr. Plowright and others on the other hand, has little concern for botanists on this side of the waters. No botanist of note in this country advocates the autonomy of *Æcidium* and *Ræstelia*, although most of them believe it best to keep them separate in our catalogues until their exact relationships have been determined by cultures. Dr. Farlow is cited on both sides of the question, but no one who knows how thoroughly progressive although cautious he is, could for a moment believe he would endorse the wild or antiquated opinions of Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith's views are stated at length in his work on the diseases of crops, and have been answered by Mr. Plowright in the *British Journal Agriculture* for September 10.

IT IS HARDLY NECESSARY to make any announcement concerning the GAZETTE for 1885. It is sufficient to say that it will be continued under the same management, and upon the same plan as during the past year. Some new features will be added, but they will recommend themselves as they appear. During the coming year the GAZETTE will finish its first decade, and its steady growth in the favor of botanists is taken as a sufficient indication that it was a necessity. Even more attention will hereafter be given to editorial notes and book reviews, that subscribers may be kept well informed of the world's work in botany. At the same time, the editors will constantly exercise the right of criticism, as they are not willing to take the responsibility of even indirectly recommending worthless books. The rapidly developing departments of physiological and cryptogamic botany will receive their full share of attention, while systematic work in the higher groups will probably yet hold the attention of the greater number of our readers. We would ask that our subscribers act as our agents, not that money may be made, but that the GAZETTE may make still farther advances in usefulness.